(a) whether Government are considering to enact a legislation in respect of farm labours; and

(b) if so, by when, a Bill would be presented to the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to enact a separate legislation for farm labour.

Amendment in Contract Labour Abolition Act

311. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to amend the Contract Labour Abolition Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the necessary amendment would be brought forward before Parliament for final enactment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) In the wake of economic liberalization, judgements of various courts, the experience gathered in administration of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the proposals received from social partners to bring about changes in the said Act, the Government has initiated action to review the Act. The amendments which may be effected in the Act have not yet been finalised as the process involves consultation with various concerned authorities. Hence no definite time, by which the amendment would be brought forward before Parliament, can be given.

Contract Labour System

312. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce contract labour system in several segments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide for decent work conditions for the contract labour force including provision for their social security and freedom from exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 has been enacted with a view to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain specific circumstances. There is no restriction on establishment to engage contract labour in those processes, operations or works wherein engagement of contract labour has not been prohibited under the provisions of the Act.

(c) Adequate provisions exist in the various labour laws including the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 to protect the interest of contract labour in terms of their welfare, health and social security and prevent their exploitation.

Bonded children in sweet-meat shop in Nellore, A.P.

313. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint on 'Bonded Children' in Nellore sweet-meat shops in Andhra Pradesh has been lodged with NHRC, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and status of the complaint;

(c) whether it is a fact that many States do not comply with all provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition)Act, 1976; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and how many States have not constituted the Vigilance Committee at District and sub-Divisional Level under the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The National Human Right Commission took *suo-moto* cognizance of a news item under the caption '4 Bonded Children freed from Nellore Units' published in "The Hindu" dated 23-02-2003 which, *inter-alia* stated that 4 children including one girl, were rescued from sweet-meat units in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. The Commission received a report from the State Government stating that the children had been freed from sweet-meat units in Nellore and were sent to their native places after paying Rs. 1000/- to each child. The employers were arrested and cases registered against them.

The matter for rehabilitation of these children is being monitored and followed up with the State Government by the NHRC.